

Observation of a *Chiridota* sp. juvenile in French Polynesia

Coralie Taquet¹

Species: *Chiridota* sp. (Apodida, Chiridotidae), Östergren, 1898.

Location: Pension "Rose des îles", Motu Tiapaa (16°28'22.00"S, 152°14'38.21W), Maupiti Island, Leeward Islands, Society Archipelago, French Polynesia. The climate is tropical.

Date and time: 13 August 2013, day time (10:00–10:30, local time).

Moon phase: New moon + 7 (waxing crescent).

Observer/Photographer: Alizée Taquet and Coralie Taquet (Fig. 1).

Depth and tide: About 40 cm, low tide (close to an amphidromic point).

Bottom: Sandy bottom (few meters from the beach shore).

Note: Morphology close to adult one (Samyn et al. 2006): worm-like body (cylindrical), smooth reddish translucent body without papillae but with white speckles (ossicle clusters), thin body wall, and lacking tube feet, transparent peltato-digitate tentacles (with a digit-bearing portion forming a disc) with short stalks. Body length: 3 cm.

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Reference: Samyn Y., VandenSpiegel D. and Massin C. 2006. Taxonomie des holothuries des Comores. *Abc Taxa* 1. 130 p.



Figure 1: Juvenile *Chiridota* sp. observed on a sandy bottom at Maupiti Island in French Polynesia.

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